

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for pricing goods of independent sellers using a marketeer controller capable of communicating via a communications network, the marketeer controller including a CPU and a memory operatively  
5 connected to the CPU, the method comprising the marketeer controller:  
receiving from an independent seller, via the communications network, data identifying the independent seller's good;  
querying a vendor's controller, via the communications network, to determine the vendor's price for a comparable good; and  
10 deriving a sale price for the good from the vendor's price using a predetermined method.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
presenting the good in a marketplace as an item for sale at an unidentified  
15 price, the marketplace being accessible to a buyer via the communications network; and  
presenting the good for sale in the marketplace at the sale price, the querying and deriving steps being performed responsive to receiving from the buyer, via the communications network, an expression of interest in purchasing the good, whereby  
20 the sale price is derived proximate a time of sale of the good to the buyer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller agrees, before the sale, to sell the good at a sale price determined by the marketeer proximate a time of sale of

the good to the buyer, the sale price being determined in accordance with the predetermined method.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the sale price comprises  
5 equating an index price to the vendor's price of the comparable good.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the seller's good is used and has a  
certain universal product code (UPC) or International Standard Book Number (ISBN)  
code, and the comparable good is new and has an identical UPC or ISBN.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the querying is performed responsive  
to the receiving of the identifying data.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined method for deriving  
15 the sale price of the independent seller's good is set by the marketer controller.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the data identifying the good of the  
independent seller's good comprises a universal product code (UPC).

20 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the data identifying the good the  
independent seller's good comprises an International Standard Book Number  
(ISBN).

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined method comprises discounting the index price for the comparable good to determine the sale price for the independent seller's good.

5 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the predetermined method comprises discounting the index price by approximately fifty percent.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the querying is performed responsive to receiving from a buyer, via the communications network, an expression of interest  
10 in purchasing the good.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the expression of interest is a standard identification code identifying the good.

15 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the standard identification code comprises a universal product code (UPC).

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the standard identification code comprises an International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

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16. A computer-implemented method for pricing goods of independent sellers using a marketer controller capable of communicating via a communications

network, the marketeer controller including a CPU and a memory operatively connected to the CPU, the method comprising the marketeer controller:

receiving from an independent seller, via the communications network, data identifying the independent seller's good;

5 querying a plurality of third parties' vendor controllers, via the communications network to determine each third party's price of a comparable good;

equating an index price to a lowest price of the third parties' prices; and

deriving a sale price for the independent seller's good from the index price using a predetermined method.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined method for deriving the sale price of the independent seller's good is set by the marketeer controller.

15 18. A computer-implemented method for pricing goods of independent sellers using a marketeer controller capable of communicating via a communications network, the marketeer controller including a CPU and a memory operatively connected to the CPU, the method comprising the marketeer controller:

receiving from an independent seller, via the communications network, data

20 identifying the independent seller's good, the independent seller's good being a certain good in used condition;

querying a vendor's controller, via the communications network, to determine the vendor's price for a comparable good, the comparable good being the certain good in new condition; and

5 deriving a sale price for the independent seller's good from the vendor's price for the comparable good using a predetermined method established by the marketeer controller, the predetermined method comprising discounting the vendor's price for the comparable good to determine the sale price for the independent seller's good.

10 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the querying vendor's controller is performed proximate a time that the buyer wishes to buy the independent seller's good.

15 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the querying is performed proximate a time that the independent seller registers the good with the marketeer as a good offered for sale by the seller.

21. A marketeer controller for processing data for pricing an independent seller's good, comprising:  
20 a central processing unit (CPU) for executing programs;  
a memory operatively connected to the CPU;

a first program stored in the memory for receiving and storing data from the seller to identify a good;

a shopping agent program stored in the memory for querying a vendor's controller to determine the vendor's price for a comparable good having a standard identification code identical to the seller's good, and for determining an index price based on the vendor's price; and

a pricing agent program stored in the memory for deriving a sale price for the good from the index price using a predetermined method.

10           22.    The marketer controller of claim 21, wherein the shopping agent program is configured to use the standard identification code to query the vendor's controller.

15           23.    The marketer controller of claim 21, wherein the seller's good is used and has a certain universal product code (UPC) or International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and the comparable good is new and has an identical UPC or ISBN.

20           24.    The marketer controller of claim 21, wherein the predetermined method comprises discounting the index price to determine the sale price for the independent seller's good.